

THE DAILY TEXAN

Serving the University of Texas at Austin community since 1900



History repeated itself Saturday night, as Texas fell to Kansas State for the fourth time in a row

SPORTS PAGE 6



Harpists tackle popular songs with little-known instrument

LIFE & ARTS PAGE 10

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Monday, November 21, 2011

THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

Hex Rally

Goodbye to A&M. The annual event will take place on the Main Mall from 8:30 - 9:30p.m. Scattered thunderstorms and a chance of rain are predicted.

Moving Austin Forward

The Liberal Arts Council welcomes alumni Randi Shade and Ian Davis, who discuss how a liberal arts education helped them pursue successful careers in public service. The discussion will be held in MEZ BO.306 from 7-8 p.m.

TUESDAY

DADT

The talk, sponsored by OUTLaw, will examine the ongoing legal issues for LGBTQ service members from 12:30 - 1:30p.m. at the School of Law in the Charles I. Francis Auditorium. Free food will be provided.

WEDNESDAY

Bike Maintenance

Mellow Johnny's weekly hour-long bike maintenance starts at 6 p.m. and will focus on drivetrain maintenance. RSVP by sending an email to hunter@mellowjohnnys.com for more information and remember that classes fill up quickly.

THURSDAY

Happy Thanksgiving

The Texan will not publish Thursday or Friday, but we'll be back on Monday.

Today in history

In 1985

Jonathan Pollard, a civilian U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, is arrested on charges of illegally passing classified U.S. security information about Arab nations to Israel. He was sentenced to life in prison where remains today for espionage.



Quote to note

I don't think I've ever seen [the defense] play better. It was an unbelievable performance. That's what's so sad — to see a performance like that and to not win the game.

— **Mack Brown**
Head football coach

SPORTS PAGE 6



Rebeca Rodriguez | Daily Texan Staff

A participant at the Warrior Dash race climbs a wooden barricade to complete the 3.01 mile-long course on Saturday. 15 waves of up to 500 runners faced 12 obstacles in the Cedar Creek event.

REFUSE TO LOSE

Mud. Sweat. Beer.

All three were on display over the weekend at Warrior Dash in Cedar Creek, where thousands of participants took part in the 3.2 mile-long race that sent runners through a myriad of obstacles littered about a local ranch modified for the event. Logs, old tires, tightropes and even the occasional ring of barbed wire

stood in the way as a vibrant crowd weaved through the muddy terrain to showcase their strength and endurance or for some, their elaborate costumes. The Warrior Dash, organized by Red Frog Events, strives to provide a unique experience for its competitors, encouraging costumes and elaborate dress. Pilgrims and Indians crawled under fishing nets, superheroes leapt

over wooden walls and even a group of bananas climbed over old junk cars before getting stuck in one of the numerous mud pits along the way. For many, the race was still a race, and no amount of mud or metal was going to keep the finish line — and maybe a cold beer or two — away for long.

— Lawrence Peart

ONLINE: For video from the Warrior Dash, visit bit.ly/dt_dash

Walk raises funds, awareness for eating disorders



Julia Bunch | Daily Texan Staff

Participants in the Austin National Eating Disorder Association Walk begin walking at Mueller Lake Park on Saturday morning.

By Allison Harris
Daily Texan Staff

With about 27 million people in the U.S. with some form of an eating disorder, the second annual Austin National Eating Disorder Association Walk led about 275 people through Mueller Lake Park to bring awareness to the issue and educate people about eating disorders.

The Saturday event, which raised more than \$21,000 for the National Eating Disorder Association, also featured four renowned speakers, including nationally known author and musician Jenni Schaefer and UT political communication and education senior Lander Baiamonte.

An estimated 11 million people in the U.S. have anorexia or bulimia nervosa, and another 15 million have binge eating disorders, said Justin Lupér, Austin National Eating Disorder Association Walk spokesman. He said about 20 percent of people with eating disorders who don't get treatment die from their condition. Lupér said misconceptions and stigmas about eating disorders often make it difficult for

people to speak out about their conditions or seek treatment.

"A lot of people don't think it's a real disease when it is, or people think it's a disease of privilege, or people think that it's not as serious as it really is," Lupér said. "We want to bring it to the forefront and let people know it's okay to talk about."

Baiamonte said she wished more people at UT were aware of eating disorders.

"I would like to see more eating disorder awareness at UT especially because we're a top school, so I think a lot of people feel that pressure to be successful, and there is a lot of pressure to be the best," Baiamonte said.

Schaefer said she is proof, as someone who had such severe bulimia and anorexia that she had osteoporosis at 22 years old, that it is possible to fully recover from an eating disorder.

"It is not something that you have to struggle with for the rest of your life," Schaefer said. "You can be fully recovered, and don't let anyone tell

WALK continues on PAGE 2

Welcoming secular group focuses on service projects

By Allie Kolechta
Daily Texan Staff

A new organization made up of secular students seeks to create — rather than burn — bridges with religious groups on campus.

The Secular Student Alliance, co-founded by Erick Rodriguez and David Burrows, is open to any student who is not affiliated with any religious denomination. After joining several groups for secular students and watching them all die out as leadership moved on, co-founder and current president Rodriguez decided something needed to be done.

"I could never understand why that was," he said. "Mid-summer, I began speaking with David, he reached out to me through a Facebook page of a group that had dissolved and was interested in starting a new organization. I said I would get involved."

Thus, UT's chapter of the Secu-

lar Student Alliance was born. The group is now a branded affiliate and an official chapter of the National Secular Student Alliance.

The group is primarily a service organization and participated in National Secular Student Service Day on Oct. 3 by donating clothes to the Texas Red Cross for Bastrop Fire Relief, Rodriguez said. They also plan on continuing to care for 28th Street, which was adopted by the Atheist Longhorns, he said.

"A lot of people may think that a secular or atheist organization may have a goal to oppose religion or religious organizations," he said. "This is not at all our goal. There is a space here for anyone with no religious affiliation, and we invite all students to come join our meetings."

The group is currently preparing for Dec. 2 when its first speaker,

SECULAR continues on PAGE 2

Queer Chorus sings for pride in debut concert

By Allison Harris
Daily Texan Staff

LGBT and ally students performed eight songs Friday to showcase pride and bring awareness to violence against LGBT people in the Queer Chorus's first-ever concert, which the Gender

and Sexuality Center sponsored.

The 21-member group performed songs including "Seasons of Love" from the musical "Rent," a duet of "I Feel Pretty/Unpretty" from the television show "Glee," "Sally's Song" from the "Nightmare Before Christmas" and "When I Am Silent," a song composed

in honor of Holocaust victims which the group dedicated to LGBT suicide and violence victims.

Queer Chorus president Christopher Acosta said the concert provided an opportunity to introduce the group

CHORUS continues on PAGE 2



Secretary of the Queer Choir, Lauren Cozart, second from the right, asks a question before the Meet the Queer Chorus Concert begins Friday evening. The event was the first organized concert by the Queer Choir.

Julia Bunch
Daily Texan Staff

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The Texan strives to present all information fairly, accurately and completely. If we have made an error, let us know about it. Call (512) 232-2217 or e-mail managingeditor@dailytexanonline.com.

FOR THE RECORD

Correction: Because of a reporting error, Nov. 14's news story about In.redients grocery store should have said the store will begin construction six to eight weeks after they receive their permit.

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High

77

Low

52

She looks like a mermaid!



Marisa Vasquez | Daily Texan Staff

Suzanne McDonnell works on a window display at Schatzelein, a jewelry store on South First on Sunday afternoon. McDonnell is a UT studio art graduate and works in sales and production for Fail Jewelry, the company that operates the store.

SYSTEM continues from PAGE 1

being hired. Public criticism increased about O'Donnell's productivity objectives and the creation of his job position, which appeared to undermine the role of the UT System Chancellor.

President Powers said the UT System approached productivity goals in a manner that unnecessarily criticized University faculty and made faculties across the country feel under attack. He said the UT System should have asked faculty to help in efforts to improve productivity.

"The rhetoric and literature was putting the blame on faculty, lazy faculty and we know these people — they're hard-working," Powers said.

Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, committee co-chair, commended Powers for defending UT-Austin's faculty throughout the course of the controversy even though it was ru-

mored that he might be fired.

"You were criticized," Zaffirini said. "Anytime you open your mouth, it seems you are criticized."

Zaffirini turned her questions to UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, whose job was also rumored to be at-risk during the height of controversy.

"You didn't defend UT," Zaffirini said. "Why not?"

Cigarroa said he decided not to voice as much concern after talking to the regents' chairman who originally hired O'Donnell. Individual board members requested productivity information about faculty at each of the UT campuses. Cigarroa said productivity information did not go through his office and instead went directly through the regents' office, which caused him difficulties in carrying out his job. Cigarroa said he personally spoke at the regents' meetings about his concerns, that they were "leaning towards micromanaging."

"In my voice, I spoke out to the best of my abilities," Cigarroa said.

Cigarroa said since he presented his Framework for Excellence Action Plan at the end of August, he has been more vocal about his goals for the UT institutions.

"I've actually been encouraged by the chairman to write op-eds," Cigarroa said.

Powers said big policy decisions, like the productivity information requests, should be made by the entire Board of Regents and not individual board members. Powers said the System should promote bottom-up innovation so campus faculty actively improve teaching and research goals instead of UT System administrators.

"Innovation very rarely comes from the top," Powers said.

Powers said as Texas higher education moves past the controversy, it is important that UT-Austin faculty is not pitted against the UT System administration.

He said the UT System administration should give clearer academic goals to each of the UT campuses instead of a multitude of ever-changing goals.

"Zigging and zagging is a real obstacle to improvements on campuses," Powers said.

The UT System wants to improve four-year graduation rates and faculty productivity, but the System has not decided what measurements the campuses should use to measure these broad goals. Powers said the measurements in Cigarroa's Framework for Excellence Action Plan are not adequate measurements of UT-Austin faculty because it leaves out significant achievements like becoming a member of the National Science Foundation.

Powers said as the UT System bases more policy on productivity measurements they should follow the method of tailors and "measure twice, cut once."

CHORUS continues from PAGE 1

to the UT community.

"Having people who are proud of themselves and proud of their community and proud of the people around so much so that they have to sing about it, I think that's a very positive message," Acosta said.

Acosta said the group, which officially began rehearsing this semester, provides LGBT students, who may be facing challenges related to coming out or situations when people use the word "gay" in a negative way, with an accepting environment.

"I wanted to create a space where we could come and sing all that away and just be proud together, have fun together and be silly together," he said.

Acosta said music is a uniquely non-confrontational way to reach audiences.

"We can be proud and sometimes in-your-face, but just singing at you, which doesn't hurt anybody," he said. "It never harms anyone physically. Singing cannot create bruises."

Queer Chorus faculty adviser Shane

Whalley said the group provides a sense of community for students.

"I think for a lot of people, this provides a music home and a queer home and a way to express themselves that's meaningful and joyous," Whalley said.

Whalley said the Queer Chorus is particularly meaningful for LGBT audience members.

"For some audience members, it gives them hope, and they may see themselves reflected in the members of the chorus," Whalley said. "For some people, it gives them a way to invite family to have a conversation."

Undeclared freshman Leo Rodriguez said he is glad that the Queer Chorus formed.

"It's great to see a group of people come together with music to tell the world that they're proud of who they are and to try to make a change through music," Rodriguez said. "Not many people do that. As you can see, there's like 25 people and there's hundreds and hundreds of people in the LGBT community."

SECULAR continues from PAGE 1

author David Fitzgerald, will give a lecture titled "Ten Beautiful Lies about Jesus." The group, which works with other organizations such as Texas Secular Humanists, invites students to attend and participate in a question-and-answer session after the lecture, Rodriguez said.

"An exchange of ideas is a good idea as long as there is respect for different beliefs," said computer science senior Jeremy Shapiro. Shapiro is a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi, a Jewish fraternity at UT, and said he would attend an event if invited to represent the Jewish community.

"It's important for cultures to understand each other, so I think it might be a good idea to build bridges with other religion-based organizations as long as everyone's beliefs aren't questioned," he said. "As long as it is mainly an exchange of ideas, I support that idea."

"Peace in society must start with

understanding across different denominations and religions," said Bryan Garcia, president of the Social Justice Team. The Social Justice Team is an organization at the University Catholic Center.

"We basically take what we experience in Mass and live out the gospel, live out Christ's call for radical love in this world," he said. "I value working together and learning from each other, not necessarily agreeing but understanding why we are the way we are."

Garcia has worked with other groups that have similar missions as the Secular Student Alliance, such as UT's Interfaith Council.

"It's important, and it's the responsibility of an individual to want to seek peace through dialogue, through trying to understand one another," he said. "It's a good idea, and it's what the world needs at this time. I pray that this organization helps that be possible."

WALK continues from PAGE 1

you different from that."

Schaefer said personality characteristics such as anxiety, perfectionism and compulsive behavior are better indicators of who may have an eating disorder than appearance alone.

"Men and women both have eating disorders, all cultures," she said. "There's no way you can tell by looking at someone whether or not they struggle."

Schaefer said family and friends don't need to understand what it's like to have an eating disorder, but they must realize that their support

is crucial to recovery.

"What we just need from friends and family is love and an acceptance that you're not going to understand, but that that's okay," she said.

Melissa Harjehausen, an English senior from Texas State University, said the speakers were inspiring to her as someone who once struggled with anorexia and bulimia.

"Seeing other people choose to take responsibility for their lives and choose to get better, rather than live with it for the rest of their life — it's just inspiring," Harjehausen said.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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Egyptians protest for democratic election date

By Maggie Michael
& Sarah El Deeb
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Egyptian soldiers and police set fire to protest tents in Cairo's Tahrir Square and fired tear gas and rubber bullets Sunday to drive out thousands demanding that the military rulers quickly transfer power to a civilian government. At least 11 protesters were killed and hundreds were injured.

It was the second day of clashes marking a sharp escalation of tensions on Egypt's streets a week before the first elections since the ouster of longtime authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak in February. The military took over the country, promising a swift transition to civilian rule. But the pro-democracy protesters who led the uprising have grown increasingly angry with the ruling generals, and suspect they are trying to cling to power even after an elected parliament is seated and a new president is voted in.

The military-backed Cabinet said in a statement that elections set to begin on Nov. 28 would take place on time and thanked the police for their "restraint," language that is likely to enrage the protesters even more.

The two days of clashes were some of the worst since the uprising ended on Feb. 11.

They were also one of only a few violent confrontations to involve the police since the uprising. The military, which took over from Mubarak, has repeatedly pledged to hand power to an elected civilian government, but has yet to set a specific date. The protests over the past two days have demanded



Tara Todras-Whitehill | Associated Press

A protester throws a gas canister towards Egyptian riot police, not seen, during clashes in downtown Cairo on Sunday. Firing tear gas and rubber bullets, Egyptian riot police on Sunday clashed for a second day with thousands of rock-throwing protesters.

a specific date be set.

According to one timetable floated by the army, the handover will happen after presidential elections late next year or early in 2013. The protesters say this is too long and accuse the military of dragging its feet. They want a handover immediately after the staggered parliamentary elections, which begin on Nov. 28 and end in March.

The protesters' suspicions about the military were fed by a proposal issued by the military-appointed Cabinet last week. It would shield the armed forces from any civilian oversight and give the generals veto power over legislation dealing with military affairs.

But other concerns are also feeding the tensions on the street. Many Egyptians are anxious about

what the impending elections will bring. Specifically they worry that stalwarts of Mubarak's ruling party could win a significant number of seats in the next parliament because the military did not ban them from running for public office as requested by activists.

The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces issued a statement expressing "regret for the events."

The council doesn't intend "to extend the transitional period and will not permit by any means hindering the process of democratic transition," it said in a statement read out on state TV.

Clashes also took place in the city of Suez east of Cairo, the coastal city of el-Arish in the Sinai Peninsula, the city of Alexandria and Assiut in southern Egypt.

NEWS BRIEFLY

Fatal small plane crash occurs in suburban Chicago, kills one

ELGIN, Ill. — Authorities say one person is dead after a small plane crashed near an airport in suburban Chicago.

Kane County sheriff's spokesman Patrick Gengler says the plane crashed Sunday at Olson Airport, near the Chicago suburb of Elgin. Gengler says a coroner was called to the scene.

He says it appears there was only one occupant on the plane. He did not immediately have further details.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Lynn Lunsford confirms one person is dead. He says the single-engine experimental craft crashed under unknown circumstances just before 2 p.m. Lunsford says the FAA is investigating and did not immediately have further details.

Inmates' love letters result in hazardous-materials scare

WATERTOWN, N.Y. — Two inmates who tried to sweeten their love letters, quite literally, by adding a sprinkling of sugar to the envelopes accidentally touched off a hazardous-materials scare at a prison in upstate New York.

The Watertown Daily Times reports that authorities noticed something leaking out of the envelopes Friday at the Watertown Correctional Facility, and state police and firefighters were brought in.

In one case it turned out to be sugar. The other was lemonade mix.

The Department of Corrections says one inmate, Jafar Torkpour of Broome County, had added sugar to a note telling a woman he was still "sweet" for her. Another inmate, Desmond McNeil of Queens, did the same thing, telling a woman his love for her was "sweet enough."

Authorities say both men could be disciplined.

— Compiled from Associated Press reports

Controversy abounds over police actions at college protests

By Sudhin Thanawala
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — As video spread of an officer in riot gear blasting pepper spray into the faces of seated protesters at a northern California university, outrage came quickly — followed almost as quickly by defense from police and calls for the chancellor's resignation.

University of California Davis Chancellor Linda Katehi said in a statement Saturday she was forming a task force to investigate the police action and the video images she said were "chilling."

However, a law enforcement official who watched the clip called the use of force "fairly standard police procedure."

In the video, an officer dispassionately pepper-sprays a line of several sitting protesters who flinch and cover their faces but remain passive with their arms interlocked as on-lookers shriek and scream out for the officer to stop.

As the images were circulated widely on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter on Saturday, the university's faculty association called on Katehi to resign, saying in a letter there had been a "gross failure of leadership."

At a news conference, Katehi said what the video shows is, "sad and really very inappropriate" but defended her leadership and said she had no plans to resign.

"I do not think that I have violated the policies of the institution," she said. "I have worked personally very hard to make this campus a safe campus for all."

Katehi remained in a media room for more than two hours after the news conference, eventually walking to an SUV past a group of students nearly three blocks long who, in a coordinated effort, remained completely silent. The Sacramento Bee said.

The protest was held in support of the overall Occupy Wall Street movement and in solidarity with protesters at the University of California, Berkeley who were jabbed by police with batons on Nov. 9.

Charles J. Kelly, a former Balti-

more Police Department lieutenant who wrote the department's use of force guidelines, said pepper spray is a "compliance tool" that can be used on subjects who do not resist, and is preferable to simply lifting protesters.

"When you start picking up human bodies, you risk hurting them," Kelly said. "Bodies don't have handles on them."

After reviewing the video, Kelly said he observed at least two cases of "active resistance" from protesters. In one instance, a woman pulls her arm back from an officer. In the second instance, a protester curls into a ball. Each of those actions could have warranted more force, including baton strikes and pressure-point techniques.

"What I'm looking at is fairly standard police procedure," Kelly said.

Images of police actions have served to galvanize support during the Occupy Wall Street movement, from the clash between protesters and police in Oakland last month that left an Iraq War veteran with serious injuries to more recent skirmishes in New York City, San Diego, Denver and Portland, Ore.

Some of the most notorious instances went viral online, including the use of pepper spray on an 84-year-old activist in Seattle and a group of women in New York. Seattle's mayor apologized to the activist, and the New York Police Department official shown using pepper spray on the group of women lost 10 vacation days after an internal review.

In the video of the UC Davis protest, the officer, a member of the university police force, displays a bottle before spraying its contents on the seated protesters in a sweeping motion while walking back and forth. Most of the protesters have their heads down, but several were hit directly in the face.

Some members of a crowd gathered at the scene scream and cry out. The crowd then chants, "Shame on You," as the protesters on the ground are led away. The officers retreat minutes later with helmets on and batons drawn.

Ten people were arrested.

Community garden provides haven from gangs

By Gosia Wozniacka
The Associated Press

WOODLAKE, Calif. — When Manuel Jimenez first set eyes on the land below a levee, the one-time field worker envisioned a place where youngsters could escape the temptations of gang life and learn about the Central Valley's most vital industry.

But, like many places in California's farming belt, this Tulare County town of 7,280 had few resources. Best known for its rodeo, Woodlake has been devastated by gangs. More than 40 percent of its families, many Latino immigrant farmworkers, live in poverty.

Over the past seven years, Jimenez found a way to teach hundreds of young volunteers farming techniques, work habits and communication skills to prepare them for jobs or college. With creativity and help from the community, they turned 14 desolate acres into lush gardens. And the police chief credits the program, Woodlake Pride, with helping fight gang crime.

"We want to grow kids in our gardens, because we've seen what violence, drugs and alcohol can do," said Jimenez, a lifetime resident who works as a farm adviser with UC Cooperative Extension.

For years, Jimenez had gathered children and planted flowers and vegetables in vacant lots. When the city purchased a railroad right-of-way on Bravo Lake, he offered to convert it to gardens. The city provided land, water and insurance.

A local farmer donated money for irrigation and snacks. Area companies donated tubing, fertilizer and plants. And Jimenez took a sabbatical while his wife Olga, a retired packing house worker, organized the children.

The youngsters and Jimenez laid irrigation pipes in a mile-long trench. They designed a walking path and spread mounds of mulch with wheelbarrows. Then they planted banana trees and 1,600 roses.

Many stayed day after day, year after year. Jimenez brought donuts and hot chocolate. He joked and had long conversations with the children. He took them to dinner, the zoo and hiking.

Each plant Jimenez chose told a story; it was unique in smell, flavor, appearance or history.

"Everything Manuel did was interesting to me," said Walter Mar-



Gosi Wozniacka | Associated Press

In this photo taken Friday, 10-year-old Roman Ramirez carries a banana tree branch from the tropical garden in Woodlake, Calif.

inez, who worked in the gardens during middle and high school and is now a field assistant with UC Cooperative Extension.

One year, the kids planted 20,000 zinnias to spell 'Woodlake' on the levee. Another year, they designed gardens encircled with sunflowers containing such dazzling plants that some visitors cried.

The gardens became a community gathering space. The fruit is not picked and visitors can sample ripe produce right off the branch.

On a recent November morning, the gardens burst with 130 varieties of roses, 60 types of grapes, 200 varieties of stone fruit, a cactus collection, rows of guava, mango and papaya trees and rare purple walnuts.

Jimenez and 10-year-old Roman Ramirez huddled next to tomato plants.

"Mijo, you need to cut here," Jimenez said, demonstrating the use of pruning shears and referring to the boy as his son. Then he let Roman clip the plants.

The children — some as young as 8, though most are high school

age — find the gardens through word of mouth. Even on gray winter weekends, they call Jimenez, asking: "Manuel, are we working today?" Jimenez and his wife, who have four grown children, spend every free hour in the gardens.

"This is a great project, because it engages kids so they don't have time to walk on the streets," said Carmen Perez, whose 15-year-old son Gerardo spends nearly every day with the program.

Gerardo's parents already work in agriculture, his mother in a packing plant, his father in the fields. Gerardo says he plans to go to college to become an agricultural engineer, like Jimenez.

Though there are only 12 documented gang members in Woodlake, Police Chief John Zapalac said loosely affiliated groups of Sureños and Nortenos clash here. Many kids lack stability in their home life, he said, so they become "wannabe members," sucked into the violence.

Although a few of the youth previously involved in the gardens are in jail and one was killed last Oc-

tober, the chief credits the gardens in part with the town's decline in youth violence in recent years.

The program has helped steer many youngsters away from that path, the chief said. Children wearing gang colors are sent home to change. The Jimenezes counsel them against the gang lifestyle and encourage them to pursue higher education. "They're surrogate parents, they really are," said Zapalac.

The children gain confidence by giving presentations and serving as tour guides. This year, 800 visitors attended the berry tasting.

The majority of the teens make it to college, Jimenez said. Garden kids have become car salesmen, farm managers, teachers and engineers.

Jimenez continues to dream big. He's already applying for grants to plant larger gardens and open a U-pick and interpretive center, so that he can involve even more kids.

"You can't wait for somebody else, like the government, to do things for you," Jimenez said. "You need to get up and fix the community yourself."

QUOTES TO NOTE

Addressing higher education governance

The Joint Oversight Committee on Higher Education Governance, Excellence and Transparency held its last hearing on higher education governance Friday. The following quotes are from the hearing.

“In my voice, I spoke out to the best of my abilities.”

— *UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa’s response to a question from Zaffirini on why he didn’t do more to defend higher education institutions during the period of turmoil earlier this year. Cigarroa defended his actions and said he spoke to other chancellors and editorial boards, made statements to emphasize his position and published op-eds.*

“As I say, I’ve exercised that [liberty], I’ve done it, I’ve been criticized for it, but I haven’t been...”

— *President William Powers Jr. on a question from state Sen. Judith Zaffirini on whether he feels he has the liberty to defend faculty from faulty external attacks without negative repercussions. Powers fumbled through the question but later agreed with Zaffirini’s sentiment that he has been criticized though not chastised or fired for it.*

“I went from 160 students to 500. So I was making a lot of money for Texas Tech University so someone could teach six kids on how to play the oboe or Latin IV or something like that. I don’t think that’s the proper wording.”

— *Kent Hance, chancellor of Texas Tech University System, talking about his past days as a business law professor at the Texas Tech University Law School in the 1970s. Hance said Texas Tech has faculty productivity reports that look at teaching loads — similar to the maligned “black and red report” at Texas A&M — and said it was important to have those numbers as long as they are not the only measurement tool. Hance and former A&M System Chancellor Mike McKinney were the only chancellors in the state invited to the now infamous 2008 conference hosted by Gov. Rick Perry and oilman Jeff Sandefer regarding the Seven Breakthrough Solutions.*

“On the communication on issues like at Penn State, I am absolutely confident that our governance structure would not have had that information bogged down somewhere ... God willing, we won’t have that kind of problem ... I am absolutely confident that those lines of communication are open and that kind of information would have been off to the police and to the right reporting agencies of the state within a day, probably by the end of the day..”

— *Powers on whether he feels the right channels of communication are in place to prevent the catastrophe at Penn State. A grand jury report found that high officials at Penn State, including the athletic director and a vice president, did not report a report of sexual abuse by a former assistant coach, which was witnessed by a graduate assistant and relayed by the head coach.*

“If I were to reflect back on this — [on] was there adequate communication between the boards, the chancellors, the presidents, the universities ... our greatest asset is our faculty, students and staff, and if they’re not engaged in that conversation to establish the best policy, then governance is compromised.”

— *Cigarroa on evaluating the communication breakdowns that sparked the higher education controversy earlier this year.*

An A+ for effort



By Larisa Manescu
Daily Texan Columnist

The Senate of College Councils held a public forum Tuesday to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the University’s existing plus/minus grading system that was implemented in 2009. Named the SenaTea, the forum offered a unique opportunity for students and faculty to collectively discuss the University policy in an informal setting.

One fundamental concern an attendee raised was the University’s grade inconsistency. Professors are not required to use the plus/minus grading system, so they have the liberty of maintaining their own grading method in their classrooms. In the recent Daily Texan article on the forum, Meridith McGraw, chair of the academic affairs committee of the President’s Student Advisory Council, addresses the notion that standardizing the system — by requiring all professors to use plus/minus grading and all departments to require the same minimum grade for course credit — might compromise the “academic freedom of professors and departments at UT.”

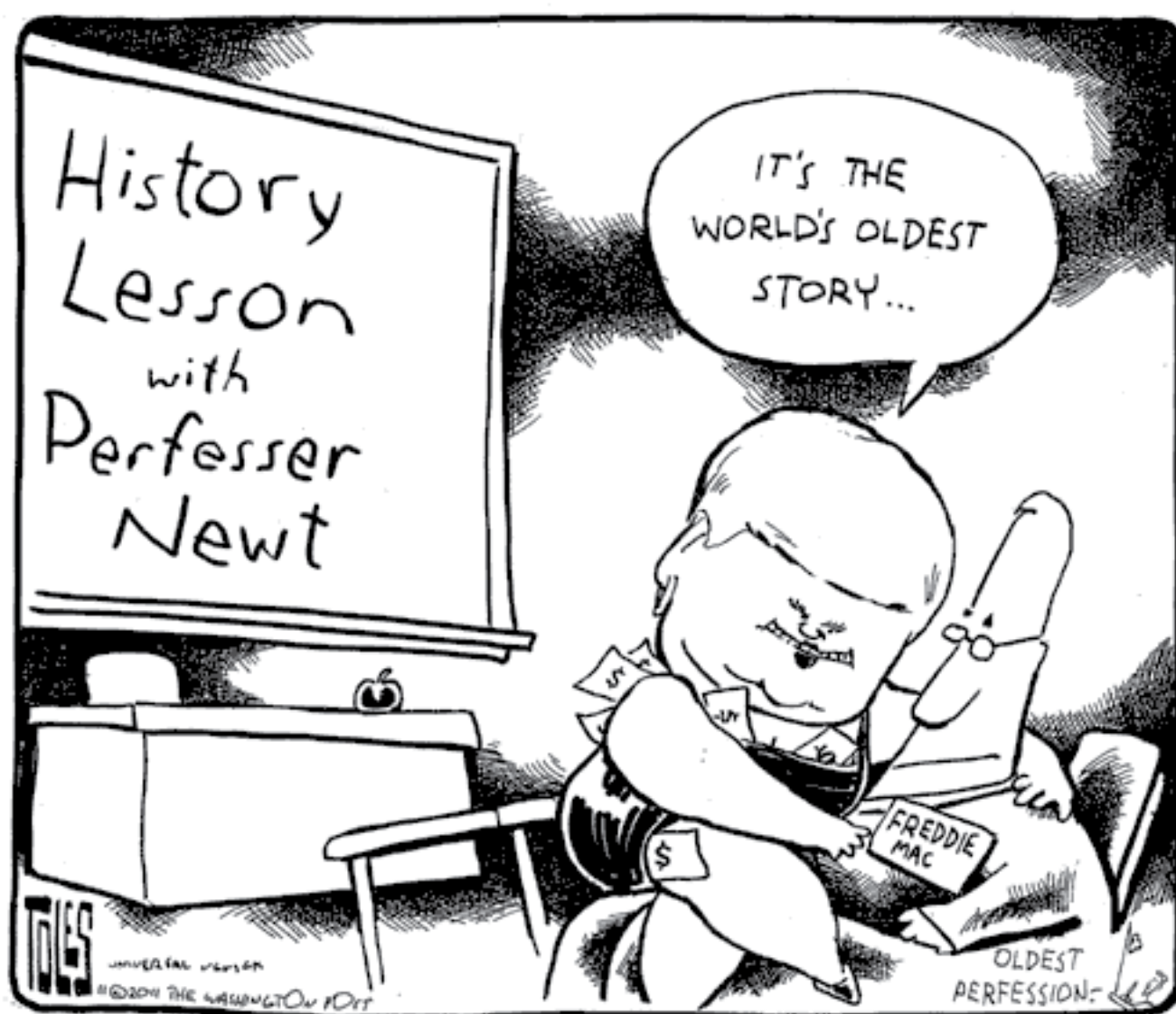
Regulating the grading system will not deprive professors of their classroom authority. On the contrary, requiring all professors to use the plus/minus grading system would aid in establishing a comparable standard across the University while still preserving each professor’s right to establish his or her own vision of what constitutes each grade. The weight assigned to various factors in a classroom, such as participation, exams or papers, may vary from professor to professor, but the scale would remain consistent.

Another concern was that the lack of an A+ distinction may hinder undergraduate students when applying to graduate programs and fellowships. It’s peculiar that while there are three distinctions for grades below a 90, there are only two for grades at or above 90. It would be appropriate to make this distinction at the A level as well, considering the prospect of an A+ serves as an incentive for students to consistently improve their work.

With our current grading system, in which there is a broad range for an A (93-100), students are not incentivized to strive for a grade higher than a 93. The University also translates transfer students’ A+ grades into A’s, giving them the same value even though the student exerted extra effort for that A+. With the addition of an A+ distinction worth 4.33 grade points per hour, students already making that extra effort would be recognized, and a growing number of students would strive for this new grade.

The existing plus/minus grading system was initially implemented with admirable intentions, such as “more accurate representation of students’ performance,” which makes it “easier to assign grades in borderline cases,” makes UT comparable to its 11 peer institutions and helps with “transfer student discrepancies,” according to the College of Liberal Arts’ website. While introducing this system largely helped those causes, it left out two key aspects: The requirement for standard usage and the existence of an A+. Adding these missing components can only serve to better reflect the value of students’ work.

Manescu is a journalism and international relations and global studies freshman.



Moving from perfunctory to policy



By Zoya Waliany
Daily Texan Columnist

For the past few months, names such as Rick Perry and Herman Cain have been ubiquitous in every news publication. Most of the coverage deals with scandals, sound bites and gaffes as opposed to any policy platforms. Over the years, around election time, the American electorate shifts its focus from considering candidates’ platforms and credentials to scrutinizing personality traits and partaking in gossip. While this provides for highly entertaining Saturday Night Live sketches, it detracts from our understanding of what these candidates are actually promoting.

For instance, many accredit Perry’s infamous “oops” gaffe at the CNBC debate to how his entire campaign will be remembered. In Perry’s latest debate faux pas, when questioned about the three areas of government he would cut, he failed to remember the third governmental department and sealed his fate with a simple, “Oops!” Indeed, this mistake was unprofessional and elucidates Perry’s severe lack of public-speaking skills. Yet so much attention was paid to his forgetting the third department that the comprehensible part of his answer, that he would eliminate the departments of commerce and education, was ignored.

More attention should be paid to the fact that Perry called for the elimination of the Department of Education despite the controversial state of our public education system. As highlighted

by political pundit Fareed Zakaria, America has drastically fallen behind many other countries in terms of educational proficiency. Furthermore, teachers are facing job uncertainty as states implement budget cuts. Perry’s education policy requires greater attention than a simple lapse of the mind. After all, past debates have demonstrated his lackluster public speaking skills.

Cain is facing a great deal of media attention for the sexual harassment allegations that seem to increase in number each week. Undoubtedly, sexual harassment is morally repugnant and furthers a system of misogyny in our society. These allegations should be noted, but the extent to which the allegations have been debated and reported overshadows Cain’s policy platforms and eligibility to serve as president. And with the rousing scandal and easy-to-digest sound bites including “9-9-9,” many are ignoring Cain’s glaring lack of knowledge about crucial governmental issues, particularly foreign policy.

Recently, the news magazine Foreign Policy released an interview fumbling over a basic question about Libya, one of the central issues of foreign policy at the moment. Reporters asked Cain whether he agrees with the actions Obama took in Libya, referencing American support of the NATO-enforced no-fly zone. After struggling to recall what exactly the issue in Libya was, Cain produced a muddled and unconnected response, clearly illustrating that he had little to no knowledge of the situation.

In addition, Cain implied that knowing the president of “Ubeki-beki-beki-beki-stan-stan” was irrelevant to presidency, calling details about foreign policy details “gotcha questions.” Admittedly, I don’t know the president of Uzbekistan, but I also am not running to be president of the United States. To serve as a leader of the free world, one must be well-versed in foreign relations, including crucial international issues involving the United States such as the Palestinian Right of Return. Cain belittles the importance of foreign policy, and at the moment, all the media attention he is generating equally belies his lack of foreign policy knowledge. Though the sexual harassment allegations must be evaluated, his supporters and critics must give greater attention to his credentials for presidency than they are right now.

The misallocation of media attention can be attributed to the fact that political discourse has become too personal. The electorate places its focus on personality and scandal as opposed to substance and policy, leading to an overemphasis on Michele Bachmann’s “crazy eyes,” as opposed to her policy positions. CNN will host yet another Republican debate Tuesday, focusing on foreign policy and national defense. Hopefully, viewers will gain a better understanding of the candidates’ policies rather than material for bad jokes.

Waliany is a Plan II and government senior.

LEGALESE

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Alumnus talks racial health disparities

By Megan Strickland
Daily Texan Staff

Every individual has the potential to change society and the conditions around them, but they are also subject to conditions that are placed upon them, said UT alumnus Brian Finch.

Finch, who graduated in 2000, spoke about the potential impact research can have on pinpointing causes of health disparities in the future at the Population Research Center's weekly brown bag lunch talk Friday. His team, composed of Audrey Beck and Sam Lin, post-doctoral research fellows at San Diego State University, is focusing its research on social factors that influence health disparities which have not been easily measured in previous research, he said.

"The sort of more neglected notion of temporal changes as they relate to health disparities is that notion of the cohort," Finch said. "[People] are born into certain environments, and these environments have an effect on them."

Finch, now a professor of sociology of public health at San Diego State University, has spent three years working with Beck and Lin to project the causes of health disparities, such as life expectancy differences, between African-Americans and their white counterparts. The team uses a method that also evaluates the effects of aging and specific time periods on health disparities, Finch said. He said the study of aging and time period allows the models to more accurately identify when environmental factors effect the cohort.

"If you look at health disparities



Marisa Vasquez | Daily Texan Staff
Brian Finch, professor of sociology and public health at San Diego State University, discusses health disparities between different races on Friday afternoon in Burdine Hall.

over time, we see that they are consistent but not persistent, and if we

“*[People] are born into certain environments, and these environments have an effect on them.*”

— Brian Finch, UT alumnus

attribute these racial differences to anything other than genetics, we realize they might be subject to social forces," Finch said.

In addition to utilizing data avail-

able from the U.S. Census Bureau to test the models on health disparities documented in the past, the models can be used to predict the severity of social conditions of health disparities in the present, Finch said.

"In the case of the recession, parents start to constrict their spending, be more careful, perhaps spend less time at home and more time at work and so forth," Finch said. "These are things that could affect individuals."

Finch said the group could use the models to study the effect of the recession on health in the United States, which is one of the reasons why sociology professor Robert Hummer said he believes it was important for Finch to speak at the brown bag lunch talk.

"The accurate measurement of health disparities is fundamental to U.S. society," Hummer said. "The data and methodology Brian and his team are bringing are cutting edge."

Students learn study abroad etiquette rules in workshop

By Sylvia Butanda
Daily Texan Staff

Females exposing their knees in public, which may be found offensive in areas of Sub-Saharan Africa, is an example of etiquette which students who plan on studying abroad must become familiar with, said Bryn Cain, program director for the UT International Office.

The third annual International Education Week hosted an etiquette workshop Friday in which students interested in study abroad were given tips and information on how to be successful when interacting with other cultures overseas.

Cain gave examples of what not to wear in certain parts of the world such as Turkey, where women are not allowed to wear headscarves in universities.

Computer science freshman Erika Mendez Morales said she was surprised that there are certain wardrobe choices that are unacceptable.

"We need to learn about cultures because if it were up to me, I would've worn whatever I felt like, but now I know that there are certain things we can and cannot wear in certain countries," said Mendez.

Cain said just because you're in a different country doesn't mean



Julia Bunch | Daily Texan Staff
Bryn Cain, director for the UT International Office, speaks during a workshop on cross-cultural etiquette at the George I. Sanchez Building on Friday afternoon. The event was part of International Education Week.

you have to completely change who you are to integrate into the country's culture.

"You need to find a happy medium between who you are in America and who you are in this other culture," Cain said. "When you do start to notice the cultural differences, be aware that it is okay to disagree but it helps to do them in a respectful way."

However, Cain advised students that it is important for them to be knowledgeable of the culture and acceptable behavior of a country before they decide to live there in order for their experiences to be successful.

"Behavior that may seem harmless in your culture may be seen as totally different and weird in another country," Cain said. "You never know what the repercussions are going to be, so it helps to know things and be aware before you go places."

Cain discussed the stereotype of loud, obnoxious American tourists and wants students studying abroad to set themselves apart from that image by being educated about the country they're in.

"It's a big part of etiquette where you're not just representing yourself when going overseas, but you're also representing your school, family and country," Cain said.

Brian Bolton, Spanish and international relations sophomore, attended the presentation in order to get general information on how to prepare for his trip studying abroad next semester in Madrid.

Bolton has travelled abroad before and has dealt with situations discussed in the presentation.

"As an American, you try not to make yourself that identifiable, and you try to assimilate in any sort of way for your own safety and enjoyment purposes," Bolton said.

Family dedicates lacrosse center



Zachary Strain | Daily Texan Staff
President William Powers Jr. looks on as Scott Caven Jr., former Board of Regents chairman, speaks on Friday.

By Megan Strickland
Daily Texan Staff

The dedication of Caven Lacrosse and Sports Center at Clark Field is the silver lining that emerged from tragedy, said former Board of Regents chairman Scott Caven Jr.

At a dedication ceremony for the center Friday, Caven said the naming of the field in honor of his family would forever serve as a reminder of the four generations of his family that attended the University as well as his son, who died in a car accident shortly before beginning at UT.

"This is our field of dreams," Caven said. "All of us know that life is filled with ups and downs, successes and failures, victories and defeats, triumphs and tragedies. The triumph of this day began with a tragedy — with the death of our son, Scotty Caven."

Caven said the renovations — including 2.3 acres of synthetic turf, 444 yards of high performance track, metal halide field lighting fixtures, 10 exercise stations and a wireless scoreboard — would not have been possible without the dedication of donors, administrators and other contributors. The construction was completed this fall, six months after

renovations began, Caven said. He said he hopes the facility will help to promote UT's lacrosse program.

"We are standing here today at the dawn of a new era for the sport of lacrosse in Texas and in the Southwest," Caven said. "The closest facility of this quality is over 800 miles away at the University of Denver which has a Division I team."

He said he is honored his family's name will forever be displayed in connection with the field.

"Orange blood flows like a river in the Caven family," he said.

Caven listed at least a dozen family members who have attended UT since his grandfather Hubbard Scott Caven enrolled 90 years ago.

Caven said he was a member of the University Board of Regents when, on Aug. 8, 2004, Scotty decided to drive home for one last weekend with his family before he enrolled as a Plan II Honors student. He died in a car accident en route.

Scotty Caven was passionate about lacrosse and would have loved the field, his father said.

"I could not remember a single day of senior year at St. John's School in Houston where Scotty was not out practicing lacrosse — either on the school playing field or throwing

and catching with his lacrosse stick against the brick wall of our house," Caven said.

Scotty Caven had practiced with the UT men's lacrosse team the summer prior to his death and had anxiously anticipated trying out for the team in the fall, his father said.

Six months after Scotty Caven's death, Scott Caven was asked to look into renovating Clark Field, he said.

UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa said he became involved with the UT because of Caven.

"At a time where I was facing a crossroad in my life, whether to go back into the field of pediatric surgery or to continue in an administrative role at the University of Texas system, Scott Caven was the one who counseled me," Cigarroa said. "In many ways, I wouldn't be here if it weren't for that heart-to-heart talk with Scott Caven."

President of the University William Powers Jr. said that the Caven family will forever be remembered for its contributions to UT.

"You've always been woven into the fabric of this university, but now your name is physically woven into the fabric of this great university," Powers said.

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TEXAS

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17

KANSAS STATE

Longhorns fall to Wildcats ... again

Comeback not good enough



Elisabeth Dillon | Daily Texan Staff

Cornerback Carrington Byndom (23) defends Kansas State's John Hubert (33). The Longhorns' defense thrived in the game and held the Kansas State offense to just 121 total yards.

By Austin Laymance
Daily Texan Staff

The Texas Longhorns just can't figure out Kansas State.

The No. 16 Wildcats outlasted Texas, 17-13, to win their fourth in a row in the series and spoil senior night for the Longhorns on Saturday at Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium. Kansas is the only Big 12 team with a winning record (7-5) against Texas, which lost its second straight game.

The Longhorns (6-4; 3-4 Big 12) failed to capitalize on a gritty performance from the defense, and the offense struggled to find its rhythm for much of the game.

Sophomore quarterback Case McCoy came off the bench in the third quarter to relieve David Ash, who started but threw two interceptions, and sparked Texas with a 36-yard touchdown strike to Blaine Irby.

"He jump-started us and really got us going," said Texas head coach Mack Brown.

But UT's first touchdown in more than six quarters wasn't enough. While Texas was busy looking for the right man to lead its offense, Kansas State's Collin Klein continued his impressive season.

Klein ran for his 25th touchdown of the year, a three-yard

score in the third, threw for 83 yards and scored a touchdown to lead Kansas State (9-2, 6-2) to its second win in as many weeks. Texas sacked Klein five times and limited him to just four rushing yards but couldn't stop him when it mattered most.

"That's what's so sad, to see a performance like that [from the defense] and not get a win," Brown said. "That's unheard of."

Longhorns defensive end Alex Okafor recorded a sack for the fifth straight game, his sixth in his last seven contests.

Texas outgained Kansas State 310-121 and had 15 first downs to the Wildcats' eight, but a pair of costly turnovers proved too much to overcome. Kansas scored 10 points off the Longhorns' miscues.

"It really came down to the two turnovers," Brown said. "That's a good defense we played."

McCoy's touchdown kept Texas within reach, pulling the home team within seven points, 17-10. He finished eight of 16 for 80 yards.

Ash struggled in the passing game for the second straight week, completing just seven of 16 attempts for 39 yards. He left the game after throwing an interception on the first drive of the second half and did not re-

turn to the field.

"Turnovers are always a negative for us, and we've got to eliminate those," Texas co-offensive coordinator Bryan Harsin said.

Kansas State broke a 3-3 tie at the end of the second quarter when Klein found Chris Harper on a 16-yard touchdown pass to cap an eight-play, 54-yard drive.

Texas had each of its two leading rushers, Malcolm Brown and Joe Bergeron, available for the first time in three weeks but continued to struggle in the running game. Brown carried 11 times for 33 yards, and Bergeron rushed for 40 yards on nine carries. Brown missed the last two games with turf toe, and Bergeron didn't play last week against Missouri because of a strained hamstring.

The Longhorns' senior class finished with a 19-7 record at home. But they don't have long to reflect on the missed opportunities, not with a visit to Texas A&M on Thursday night fast approaching.

"We know we've got a game in a couple days, so we need to get ready," said Texas senior linebacker Keenan Robinson. "We have a limited time to shake this off, and we need to focus and get ready for the next two games."

By Christian Corona
Daily Texan Staff

For the second straight week, Texas held an explosive offense to 17 points. And for the second straight week, 17 points was enough to win.

With the Longhorns' offense struggling, the defense did not have much room for error Saturday night. Texas hit a field goal on its first drive against Missouri two games ago and didn't get any more points from its offense the rest of the contest. Freshman David Ash threw two interceptions before being replaced by Case McCoy, who promptly threw a 36-yard touchdown pass to Blaine Irby on his first drive.

But Texas' comeback attempt fell short as Kansas State took down the Longhorns for the fourth straight time, 17-13. Texas allowed just 121 yards and forced a three-and-out on eight of the Wildcats' 14 possessions. Kansas State, coming off a thrilling 53-50 quadruple-overtime victory over Texas A&M and a 52-45 loss to Oklahoma State the week before, were held to 17 points, its lowest point total since the season opener.

"I don't think I've ever seen [the defense] play better," said head coach Mack Brown. "It was an unbelievable performance. That's what's so sad — to see a performance like that and to not win the game."

Collin Klein, Kansas State's

do-it-all quarterback who defensive coordinator Manny Diaz compared to Tim Tebow, never found a rhythm. The junior quarterback completed nine of his 17 passes for 83 yards and was held to four yards rushing on 26 carries after averaging more than 100 yards on the ground in his first nine games this year. Despite the Longhorns' valiant defensive effort, Klein managed to score his 35th and 36th touchdowns of the season.

"If you would have told me that we'd hold Collin Klein to four yards rushing and 83 yards passing, I would have known that we would have won the game," Brown said.

If there was one thing the Texas defense didn't do well Saturday night, it was forcing turnovers. Kansas State made it through the entire contest without committing a turnover. The Longhorns haven't had more takeaways than their opponent since a 37-14 win over Iowa State on Oct. 1, a victory that left the Longhorns with a plus-six turnover margin. That number is down to -2 as Texas forced just one turnover in its last three games.

"It really came down to turnovers," said Brown. "Other than [that], it was an even game throughout the night — two great defenses that played hard throughout and kids that fought until the play of the game."

DEFENSE continues on PAGE 7



Elisabeth Dillon | Daily Texan Staff

Jackson Jeffcoat (44) and the defense continues to keep Texas in games. Kansas State's QB Collin Klein only had four yards rushing.

Anderson scores 19 points in victory

By Nick Cremona
Daily Texan Staff

In its most impressive showing of the young season, Texas stormed out to a 21-0 lead in the first seven minutes against an undersized Alcorn State squad.

The Longhorns never looked back and were able to dominate the Lady Braves with a final score of 74-42 to earn their second win of the year.

"I was really pleased with the way we started the game," head coach Gail Goesteniors said. "I thought our energy, focus and our intensity was really good."

From the opening tip, the Longhorns came out playing zone defense, and it caused the Lady Braves absolute fits in the preliminary stages of the game. Texas forced several early turnovers and made it clear this game wasn't going to be

as close as the Longhorns' first two contests of the season.

Senior guard Yvonne Anderson got off to a quick start, knocking down two early three-pointers. She led all scorers with 19 points and also dished out eight assists.

Sophomore guard Chelsea Bass saw her first action of the season, playing 18 minutes and adding nine points. She was needed earlier in the game than she might have anticipated, as sophomore Chassidy Fussell and Anderson got into a bit of foul trouble in the first half.

The Lady Braves (0-3) never seemed to find their rhythm and were held without a basket until the 11-minute mark in the first half. The duo of senior Ashley Gayle and sophomore Cokie Reed combined for 11 blocks on the night.

No block was more impressive

than Gayle's emphatic rejection just two minutes into the first quarter. It was her 290th career block, making her the all-time leader at Texas.



Elisabeth Dillon | Daily Texan Staff

Ashley Gayle (22) became Texas' all-time leader in blocks during the team's win on Sunday. She had seven total blocks.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

TEXAS 74, ALCORN ST. 42

BASS continues on PAGE 7

Coach reflects on OK State tragedy, loss

By Stefan Scrafield
Daily Texan Staff

Oklahoma State Cowgirls' head coach Kurt Budke and assistant coach Miranda Serna died late Thursday night when the private, single-engine plane carrying them on a recruiting trip crashed just west of Little Rock, Ark.

Budke has been the coach at Oklahoma State all four years that Texas' Gail Goesteniors has been the head coach for the Longhorns, and they developed a relationship through conference play and on the recruiting trail.

"Kurt was a great colleague, as was Miranda," said Goesteniors. "They were tireless workers and always very positive. You spend basically the month of July out recruiting, seeing them in every single gym. It is a huge tragedy for everybody, especially for their families and loved ones."

Goesteniors said it's rare for her to travel on private planes.

"It's not very often, maybe five times a year," said Goesteniors. "We never travel on single-engine planes."

SIDELINE

NFL



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EAGLES

17



GIANTS

10

LONGHORNS IN THE NFL

Cedric Benson

2 Touchdowns
41 Yards



Vince Young

2 Touchdowns
258 Passing Yards



SPORTS BRIEFLY

NEW YORK — The latest AP college football poll gives a new meaning to the term all-SEC.

The Southeastern Conference is the second league to have the top three spots in the ranking all to itself.

No. 1 LSU held the top spot for the ninth straight week in Sunday's rankings, and after a weekend when three other top-five teams lost, Alabama moved up a spot to No. 2, and Arkansas jumped three places to No. 3.

The only other time in the 75-year history of The Associated Press rankings when the top three teams all came from the same conference was the final regular-season poll of 1971, when Nebraska, Oklahoma and Colorado from the Big Eight were 1-2-3.

No. 4 Stanford from the Pac-12 is the first non-SEC team in the rankings, and Oklahoma State dropped from No. 2 to No. 5 after its first loss of the season. The Cowboys lost 37-31 in double overtime at Iowa State on Friday night.

That opened the door for Alabama to move up to No. 2.

Oregon lost 38-35 at home to USC that night, and Oklahoma fell at Baylor 45-38.

The last time three of the top five teams lost on the same weekend was Oct. 11, 2008, when No. 1 Oklahoma lost to No. 5 Texas; No. 3 Missouri lost to No. 17 Oklahoma State; and No. 4 LSU lost to No. 11 Florida.

Oregon slipped five spots to ninth with its second loss of the season. Oklahoma dropped from No. 5 to No. 12.

— The Associated Press

Texas looks to improve at NCAA Championships

By Wes Maulsby
Daily Texan Staff

For the second straight year, Texas will be running in the National Championships and trying to improve on last year's 20th-place finish, the best finish in more than 20 years for the Longhorns.

Texas has come in second in its

last two races, finishing behind Iowa State in the Big 12 Championship and behind Arkansas in the South Central Regional a little more than a week ago. After reaching its highest ranking in history, Texas slid from No. 12 down to No. 17 for the National Championship.

The Longhorns have employed a conservative attack this sea-

son, which calls for a steady run through the whole race, with a window for a closing kick at the finish. One of the main challenges presented in the National Championship is the size of the field.

"The big issue is that there are 31 teams, and it is very crowded. Nobody is ready for that," coach Steve Sisson said. "No one

WOMEN'S XC

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

has been in a race of that size. It is hard to move up throughout the course of it. That is our challenge, to get them in a good spot, allow them to move up and hopefully, they can execute that."

Starting will be a challenge. With so many runners in one area, ad-

SIEBERT continues on PAGE 7

BASKETBALL
TEXAS 95, OREGON STATE 100

Oregon State hands young team first loss in overtime

By Trey Scott
Daily Texan Staff

Texas struggled a bit in its first road trip this season, falling to Oregon State 100-95 in overtime Saturday night. But with a team that counts six freshmen among its key players, that's not too surprising.

The Longhorns (2-1) held a lead over the Beavers for the majority of the game, including a 72-64 advantage with a little more than seven minutes left. But behind Jared Cunningham, who scored 37 points, the Beavers came roaring back. Cunningham made two free throws to send the game into overtime and then, after OSU made two three-pointers, made two more.

"Any player that shoots that is going to have a [good] game," said UT point guard Myck Kabongo. "He got to the line 23 times, and you can't stop that."

Texas was led in scoring by J'Covan Brown, who had 25 points.

The game — at the Izod Center in East Rutherford, N.J., as part of the TicketCity Legends Classic — was a homecoming of sorts for three Longhorns who all had ties to the Garden State. Kabongo played two seasons at St. Benedict's, Alexis Wangmene



Senior Alexis Wangmene (20) had a career high in scoring with 11 points against OSU.

Lawrence Peart | Daily Texan Staff

played one year at the Blair Academy, and Sterling Gibbs hails from the area.

Wangmene scored a career-high 11 points and snatched four rebounds.

Texas will try and bounce back today against North Carolina State.

VOLLEYBALL
TEXAS 3, MISSOURI 1

McNeal leads Longhorns to road victory

By Lauren Giudice
Daily Texan Staff

After an injury prevented her from playing much of the first half of the season, junior Sha'Dare McNeal hit her stride. She led the No. 9 Longhorns (20-4, 13-1 Big 12) to their 13th consecutive win on Saturday night, defeating Missouri on the road, 3-1.

McNeal had 15 kills and .750 hitting percentage. She was also vital on defense, with four total blocks and 11 digs.

In the first set, Texas allowed the Tigers to take a 14-12 lead. But sophomore Bailey Webster's two kills

and a block aided Texas in a 10-3 run, giving the Longhorns the lead. A kill by Webster ended the set, 25-19. She had 14 kills in the match.

The Longhorns let the Tigers back into the match in the second set. Texas was up 24-21, but three errors by the team were costly and Missouri won the set, 28-26.

The Longhorns were on a mission in the third set. They took a 10-2 lead after five blocks and never looked back, winning the set 25-9. Freshman Madelyn Hutson had a career-high total with seven total blocks, and the team had a total of six blocks in the third set.

The momentum from the third-

set win transferred into the third when the Longhorns took a 18-7 lead, aided by two kills and two blocks by senior Rachael Adams. As the set came to a close, Texas refused to let down, and two kills by Webster and two blocks by Adams finished the set 25-9.

The Longhorns out-hit Missouri .323 to .137 and out-blocked them 15.0 to 7.0.

Head coach Jerrett Elliott said at this point in the season, it is sometimes difficult to keep the team motivated. But the Longhorns are still on top of the Big 12 standings with two games left in conference play.

SIEBERT

continues from PAGE 6

vancing and getting a good position becomes crucial to get off to a good start and get out of the crowd.

"People get vicious, they do. They can elbow you, spike you, cut you off, not let you through. You just have to fight through it," sophomore Megan Siebert said.

The race will begin at approximately 11:58 a.m., with coverage beginning at 11 a.m. at NCAA.com. The 6K race will be at the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course in Terre Haute, Ind.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Texas has something to prove

By Wes Maulsby
Daily Texan Staff

Coming off a win at South Central Regional, No. 9 Texas will run in the National Championship today. The 10K race will be run at the LaVern Gibson Cross Country Course in Terre Haute, Ind.

Led by freshman Craig Lutz, Texas has shot up the rankings this season after a preseason ranking of No. 24. The Longhorns will be one of many top contenders looking to dethrone Oklahoma State, who has won three straight titles.

In a race that features more than 200 runners, it will be important for Texas to keep its team strong through the race. Running in packs will allow Texas to relax and not let the runners get overwhelmed by the adrenaline rush of the situation. When entering the latter sections of the race, the

Longhorns will be fresher than their opponents and hope to pass their tired competition.

Earlier this fall, Texas kicked off its season with a surprise performance at Wisconsin. Against some of the top competition in the country, the Longhorns used a No. 6 finish to put themselves on the scene. Texas followed that with a third-place finish in the Big 12 Championships behind powers Oklahoma State and Oklahoma. Most recently, Texas won the South Central Regional over Texas A&M and Arkansas, who has been one of the best cross country programs of the last 15 years.

Another strong showing at the National Championships would announce that this Texas team will be a tough team to deal with in the next few years. Coverage of the race will begin at 11 a.m. at NCAA.com, with the race starting at approximately 11:08 a.m.

BASS

continues from PAGE 6

Gayle said. "That was a major goal of mine the last couple of years."

Gayle and Reed essentially shut down the Lady Braves' inside game and forced them to shoot more three-point shots in an attempt to catch up. It was to no avail — the Lady Braves shot just 25 percent from beyond the arc for the game and struggled with the size of the Longhorns.

"Ashley has been a great defender for us, and she takes a lot of pride in her defense," Goes-

tenkors said. "She gets into the head of some great post players, and it really affects their game."

Texas will need more of the same from Gayle as it heads to Hawaii to face some of the nation's top teams in the Waikiki Beach Marriott Rainbow Wahine Showdown after Thanksgiving. The Longhorns' next opponent, Virginia, is 4-0 so far and is coming off a huge overtime upset of No. 3 Tennessee, who also happens to be in the tournament.

DEFENSE

continues from PAGE 6

Sacks were hard to come by earlier in the season as the Longhorns notched multiple sacks in just one of first six games. The Longhorns registered a season-high five sacks Saturday, along with 16 tackles for loss and nine quarterback hurries.

"We didn't get the W, so it's

obviously not as dominating of a game as you'd want it to be," said sophomore defensive end Jackson Jeffcoat, who had five tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks.

The defense continued its dominating ways Saturday. It's just waiting for the offense to catch up.

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizon-
tally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR
LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters

BRADLEY COOPER

Solution: 10 letters

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W M Y E S H O W O C N E K T I
A A S T L E O T K S N U L E S
N E I E I U S E A A L I F R O
D T S H R C R T D D M F E E P
O A I R P I E I O I E V L K S
R S V G E L A H T J O O S A E
D T A T L R E L T G R G T T N
E E R I O R E D N D O A A I A
R V T M T S E A A D N R S H M
O E U Y S M H F C L R A G W S
T H O N O R S O I O I A X E E
C B R I S T O W M L R H M E Y
A O S A C K W N A Y M A P A S

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11/21

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Last Answer: Final Answer

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Who Needs Enemies: Part 1



Emery F.

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	4		9			5		
			8		4			
		7			3		9	
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8						4	7	2
			2	6		3	5	

Yesterday's solution

6	3	7	4	2	8	1	9	5
9	5	2	1	3	7	4	8	6
4	1	8	5	6	9	2	3	7
7	2	1	8	4	6	3	5	9
3	6	9	2	1	5	8	7	4
8	4	5	7	9	3	6	1	2
5	8	3	6	7	4	9	2	1
2	7	6	9	8	1	5	4	3
1	9	4	3	5	2	7	6	8

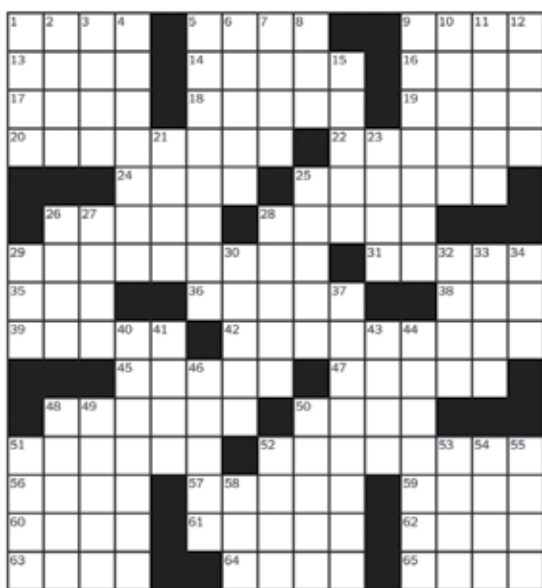
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1017

- Across**
- Fateful day for Caesar
 - All-night dance party
 - Laboratory maze runners
 - Scrabble draw
 - Completely confused
 - The "E" in Q.E.D.
 - Stratford-upon-Avon
 - Manicurists treat them
 - Sluggish from sedatives
 - Catch Groucho while fishing?
 - Blues player's instrument?
 - 18-wheeler
 - Chaotic battles
 - French farewell
 - Falafel holders
- Down**
- Cereal that doesn't really taste like anything?
 - Period of duty
 - 1930s-'40s prez
 - Beyond repair
 - Expected to arrive
 - Islamic decree
 - Wildcat that can't sit still?
 - Dances to Hawaiian music
 - Astronaut Armstrong and others
 - Burning emergency signals
 - New (35-Across's program)
 - Levy paid by white-collar workers?
 - Formal wear for one's belly?
 - Cupid, to the Greeks



Puzzle by Patrick Berry

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- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 33 Convent residents | 44 Large leaf on which a frog may repose | 51 Look after, as a bar |
| 34 Common cowboy nickname | 46 Upscale marque owned by Toyota | 52 London art gallery |
| 37 Slumlord's building | 48 Dismissed from "The Apprentice" | 53 "Animal House" party costume |
| 40 "How about it?" | 49 Helmsley known as the Queen of Mean | 54 Peck, pint or pound |
| 41 Otherworldly glow | 50 Began eating | 55 Leather-wearing TV princess |
| 43 500 sheets of paper | | 58 Lumberjack's tool |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

I	T	A	L	I	A		A	B	E	T		N	I	B
C	E	S	A	R	R	O	M	E	R	O		O	F	A
K	R	I	S	T	E	N	W	I	I	G		S	Y	R
E	R	A	S		T	A	G	E	A	C	T	O	R	
S	A	N	E	R		A	Y	E			A	A	U	
	S	A	A	R		S	H	A	L	L	W	E		
C	P	A		B	L	I	P		I	D	I	G	I	T
F	A	C	E	B	O	O	K		P	R	O	F	I	L
C	R	O	N	I	N		G	E	E	R		A	L	S
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T	I	S		E	M	U		D	E	B	R	A		
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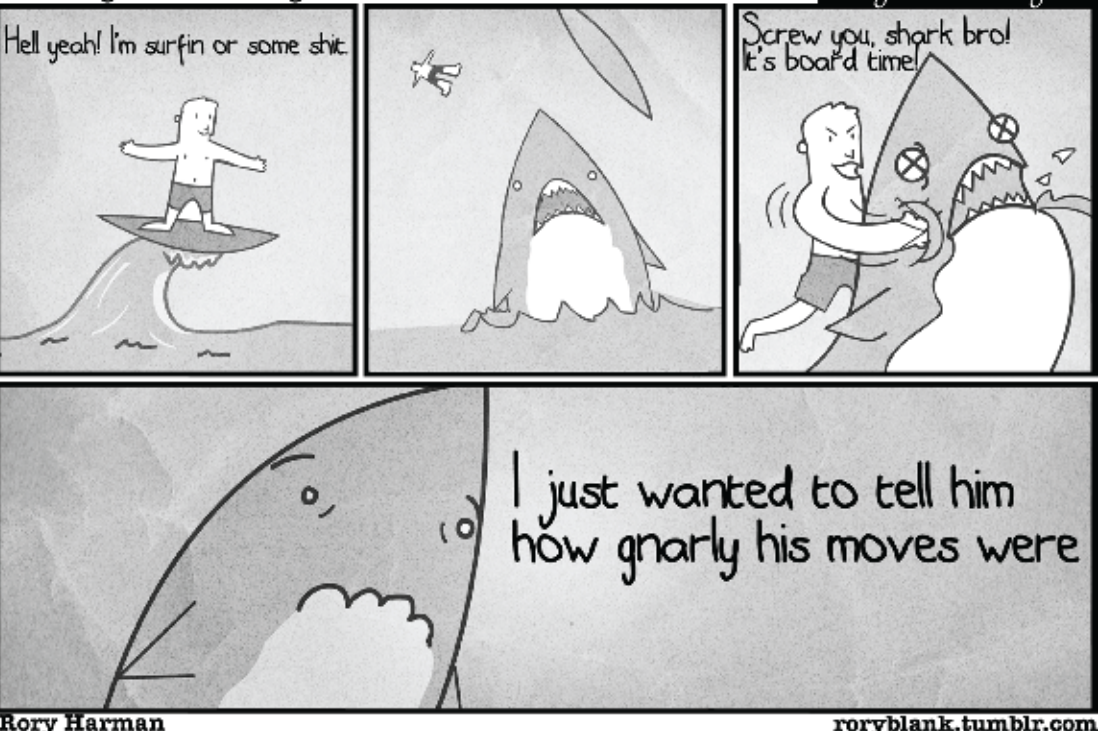
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Suehaila Amen is one the stars of the TLC reality series “All-American Muslim.”

Photo courtesy of TLC

TLC continues from PAGE 10

“A lot of non-Muslims are watching the show to learn about Islam, and a lot of Muslims have said the show is horrible because it doesn’t show Islam how it’s

supposed to be, but really, it’s a show about people who practice Islam in America,” Sheikh said. He said he plans to keep watching it and hopes non-Muslims and Muslims alike will too.

“I do think they’ve done some things wrong, but it shows that we’re just like everyone else,” Sheikh said. “Some of us wear

scarves, some wear mini skirts. Islam is no different from any other society.” “All-American Muslim” airs Sunday at 9 p.m. on TLC.

NOODLE continues from PAGE 10

pany is a little too generous with the bean sprouts, the slightly spicy stir-fried and peanut-topped noodles are quite tasty.

The “grown-up” macaroni and cheese, the Truffle Mac, is an earthy and cheesy delight. The al dente mac-elbows are enveloped in a cheese sauce infused with white truffle oil and garlic, topped with slightly charred portabello mushrooms and

covered in a thick layer of shredded Parmesan. When it comes to macaroni and cheese, there’s no such thing as too much cheese, but in this case, the overzealous layer of Parmesan destroyed the visual effect of the dish.

Again, though the menu items are not authentic, the Mediterranean portion of the menu finally fills the glaring Italian cuisine gap on the Drag. The spiral Cavatap-

pi noodles are whimsical and fun, but the herbal basil pesto with wine undertones make the flavors sufficient to satisfy an Italian food craving. The Cavatappi is served with a sprinkling of mushrooms, near-poached tomatoes and garlic.

Noodles & Company also offers a variety of soups and salads, such as the Thai Curry Soup, a coconut curry broth with spinach, cab-

bage, mushrooms, tomato, red onion and rice noodles, or the Very Berry Spinach Salad topped with strawberries, pecans, crumbled bacon and blue cheese topped with a fig vinaigrette.

Despite its long lines and overzealous garnishing, Noodles & Company is bound to be a Drag favorite for its convenience and variety.

US elderly population surges to 2 million

By Hope Yen
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The rolls of America’s oldest old are surging: Nearly 2 million now are 90 or over, nearly triple their numbers of just three decades ago.

It’s not all good news. They’re more likely than the merely elderly to live in poverty and to have disabilities, creating a new challenge to already strained retiree income and health care programs.

First-ever census data on the 90-plus population highlight America’s ever-increasing life spans, which are redefining what it means to be old.

Joined by graying baby boomers, the oldest old are projected to increase from 1.9 million to 8.7 million by mid-century — making up 2 percent of the total U.S. population and one in 10 older Americans. That’s a big change from more than a century ago, when fewer than 100,000 people reached 90.

Demographers attribute the increases mostly to better nutrition and advances in medical care. Still, the longer life spans present additional risks for disabilities and chronic conditions such as arthritis, diabetes and Alzheimer’s disease. “If I get stuck with something I can’t handle, I yell for the kids,” says Betty Mae Gutoski, 85, of Muskegon, Mich., who says she expects to live past 90. The colon cancer survivor lives alone and says she is “comfortable,” getting occasional help with yard work from her son and grandson, who live next door.

Gutoski said in a telephone interview that she maintains her health by leading a busy life — driving, grocery shopping once a week, sewing, visiting the senior center, volunteering and meeting her friends for lunch — but she acknowledges having some fears. “My big worry is becoming a burden on my family,” she said. Richard Suzman, director of behavioral and social research

at the National Institute on Aging, which commissioned the report, said cases like Gutoski’s are increasingly common.

An Associated Press-Life-GoesStrong.com poll in June found that more than one in four adults expect to live to at least 90, including nearly half of those currently 65 or older.

“A key issue for this population will be whether disability rates can be reduced,” Suzman said. “We’ve seen to some extent that disabilities can be reduced with lifestyle improvements, diet and exercise. But it becomes more important to find ways to delay, prevent or treat conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease.”

According to the report, the share of people 90-94 who report having some kind of impairment such as inability to do

errands, visit a doctor’s office, climb stairs or bathe is 13 percentage points higher than those 85-89 — 82 percent versus 69 percent.

Among those 95 and older, the disability rate climbs to 91 percent.

On Thursday, the Census Bureau said it was putting out its study of the 90-plus age group at NIA’s request in recognition of longer life expectancies, which are just over 78 for babies now being born.

By the time a person reaches 65, Americans are generally expected to live close to 20 years longer, up from 12 years in 1930. At age 90, their expectancy is another five years.

“Given its rapid growth, the 90-and-older population merits a closer look,” said Wan He, a Census Bureau demographer who wrote the report. “The older people get, the more resources they consume because of health care, and disability rates significantly increase. This creates demands for daily care, and for families, the care burden increases dramatically.”

The findings come as a special congressional committee struggles to meet a Nov. 23 deadline

to cut more than \$1 trillion from the federal deficit over 10 years. Major sticking points are proposals to increase tax revenue as well as trim Social Security and Medicare spending, such as by increasing the Medicare eligibility age.

“As we look at these numbers, we see just how critically important programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security are, especially for the very old in America,” said David Certner, legislative policy director at AARP. “These are the people — mostly single elderly women — who can least afford a cut to their Social Security cost-of-living adjustment.”

“Many more also will come to rely on Medicaid as the largest payer of long-term services and supports in our country,” he said.



Photo courtesy of the Associated Press and the Hays Daily News

Nola Ochs, center, of Jetmore, Kan., celebrates her 100th birthday during halftime of the Fort Hays State University men’s basketball game.

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ANGEL continues from PAGE 10

variably, they all seek to connect with others, grasping for “human moments” as they attempt to merge their reality and their fears with the realities of others.

In “The Ivory Acrobat,” Kyle, an American expatriate in Athens, is unnerved by a string of powerful earthquakes and views the mass terror after the event as a kind of protection. “There was some comfort in believing the worst as long as it was the reigning persuasion,” DeLillo writes. To inoculate her “dull-witted terror,” Kyle rehearses the details of the quake with others.

The first story, “Creation,” is probably the most mysterious in the collections — a bizarre love triangle develops between tourists on a remote Caribbean island when they become mired in the dream logic of a local airport and can’t find a flight home. When the narrator’s wife leaves on her own, he finds himself alone on the island with a German woman named Christa. DeLillo weaves a retelling of Book II of Genesis between the two strangers. In his version, God’s creations go unnamed and man is powerless against greater forces.

With the exception of Sister Edgar, DeLillo’s characters rarely do anything. Either their surroundings or their own fear im-

mobilize them. Like Christa and the narrator of “Creation,” they are bound by the “ominous logic” of pointless fate, trapped in a “dreamlike, nightmare of isolation and restraint.”

The second story, “Human Moments in World War III,” is the wide-shot to Creation’s close-up. Two men, the narrator and a young genius named Vollmer, are stationed on a spacecraft for reconnaissance during World War III. As they bide their time in space, padding around in slippers and munching almond crunches, Vollmer reflects on life, earth and the nature of war. Like in much of DeLillo’s work, the dialogue reads like a philosophy lecture. One gets the suspicion the characters are just mouthpieces, props as unreal as the laser technology they use on their spacecraft. However this defect is overcome by the quality of DeLillo’s message and the cosmic poetry of his delivery.

“The Angel Esmeralda” is admirable for its perceptive prose and for the different angles from which DeLillo approaches his age-old themes. At times, DeLillo has the bad habit of bludgeoning his reader with a theme, but it is hard to resent him for the bludgeoning when the writing itself is so elegant and his messages so insightful.

HARP continues from PAGE 10

has pedals, you’re using all four limbs at once, you’re reading essentially four lines of music at once, and you’re playing all of the notes, not just one note at a time like some instruments,” she said.

The toll of mastering the harp, like with any instrument, has left its wear and tear on the players. Tough, calloused blisters cover the tips of the women’s fingers, and sometimes they even bleed. Since McCay and Cook are both petite, the extra power to pull the strings and the weight of the 100-pound harps against their knees and shoulders has tensed their backs, shoulders and arms. Constant stretching and good posture are mandatory to protect the longevity of their musicianship.

McCay said she wants to play the harp professionally but hopes to teach as well.

“I switched to music because I wasn’t feeling fulfilled with engineering,” McCay said. “And I just really love playing the harp in a way I don’t love doing anything else.”

McCay, who plans to be nurse, said she decided to change majors because she can easily be a nurse who plays the harp but never a harpist who is a nurse.

While there are few harpists who are on the cusp of main-

stream, Cook and McCay said they are appreciative of anyone who brings attention to the harp, such as singer-songwriter and harpist Joanna Newsom.

“Joanna Newsom is a successful woman, who has helped make the harp more accessible to listeners,” McCay said. “We applaud and appreciate her.”

Newsom, in fact, has played Cook’s harp.

“Joanna actually rented my harp last time she was in Austin,” Cook said. For Newsom’s performance at the Paramount Theatre and at ACL Live, Cook tuned the harp for the indie folk harpist and got to go backstage and see how a show is set up. “If you watch the taping, that’s my harp,” she said.

The harp is the only stringed instrument on which the strings run perpendicular to the sounding board, Cook explained, which give the harp its distinct, ethereal sound.

“There is no bow between hand and string,” Cook said. “A harpist is essentially in the most direct, intimate contact possible with each vibrating string. Not to mention, the harpist holds the instrument against his or her body as they play. So apart from the sound, which is special to hear, the nearness to the sound makes it special and satisfying to play.”

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TLC series profiles families practicing Islam in America

Spirit of Austin

By Audrey White

TLC's "All-American Muslim" does its darndest to make Muslims seem normal.

The network follows five Muslim families in Dearborn, Mich. The city is home to the largest mosque in North America and is characterized by a large concentration of Arab Americans.

The Muslims featured on the show represent diverse views and live out their faith in varied ways.

Shadia Amen doesn't wear a hijab, the traditional Muslim head covering, though her mother and older sister do.

Nina Bazzzy-Aliahmad wants to open a nightclub, but her male, conservative business partner says she wouldn't be up to the job because she is a woman. Nawal Aoudes wears the hijab and seems to look down on women who don't uphold the symbol of modesty.

The show engages viewers

with diverse stories and the eight-part series is the first of its kind. On a network known for controversial shows such as "Little People, Big World" and "Sister Wives," the show comes off almost subdued.

The story line is a bit slow-moving and repetitive, but it does touch on topics ranging from marriage and family to high school football. The town of Dearborn looks like it could be one of the Dallas or Houston suburbs that many UT students grew up in.

History and religious studies senior Hannah Abbasi said

A lot of Muslims don't like it, but I hope the show makes people think and learn something.

—Hanna Abbasi, History and religious studies senior

"A lot of Muslims don't like it, but I hope the show makes people think and learn something," Abbasi said.

The first episode got some things right and other things wrong, said 2011 UT alumni Wasiq Sheikh.

TLC continues on PAGE 9

RESTAURANT REVIEW NOODLES & COMPANY

Noodle restaurant offers pasta dishes, convenience

By Sara Benner
Daily Texan Staff

Noodles & Company is the last franchise to fill out the space that once was Follett's Intellectual Property on the Drag. Featuring a multi-cuisinal customizable menu with at least eight different kinds of noodles, Noodles & Company, at least on paper, sounds like a great place to take a group of friends with thin billfolds who are all craving something different.

Its menu is divided into three regions: Asian, Mediterranean and American. The items aren't exactly authentic, but there's variety: everything from peanut sauté to mushroom stroganoff. They even have a few different versions of macaroni and cheese, including bacon cheeseburger mac and chili mac.

After waiting in line, you order a dish, decide whether you'd like to combine it with one of the soups or salads, and then you can upgrade your dish with a protein such as chicken, beef, shrimp or tofu, or add extra cheese or additional vegetables. But be careful: by adding a protein and two veg-

etables, your cute \$4 entree doubles in price.

During lunch, it's pretty busy: the lines are long and seating is sparse. However, it has an online ordering option through its website and an iPhone application, which eliminates the lines, but it doesn't offer a delivery service.

For what this venue is, it's not bad. The pad thai is some of the best on the Drag but not in Austin. Pad Thai is a stir-fried rice noodle dish typically served with fried egg, fish sauce, red chili pepper, bean sprouts, peanuts, cilantro and either tofu, chicken or shrimp. Though Noodles & Com-

NOODLE continues on PAGE 9

WHAT: Noodles & Company

WHERE: 2402 Guadalupe St.

HOURS: Sun-Thurs 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri-Sat 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

COST: Less than \$10 a person

CUISINE: Multi-cultural: Asian, Mediterranean, American

GRADE: B-



Lawrence Peart | Daily Texan Staff

Noodles & Company, open at Guadalupe and 24th Streets, has a menu featuring a variety of pasta dishes, separated into sections of American, Asian and Mediterranean inspiration.

Harp duo goes contemporary



Lawrence Peart | Daily Texan Staff

Molly Cook and Meredith McCay formed a harp duo named Seven Pedals when the two decided that the instrument could be used for much more than just a classical sound. The duo covers a number of contemporary artists such as Adele and Sufjan Stevens, while writing their own music with a clean, contemporary feel.

Harpists play covers of top hits, write original compositions

By Julie Rene Tran
Daily Texan Staff

With each nimble stroke, strum and pluck, the strings buzzed, sounding an ethereal melody into the small living room. Leaned against the shoulders of their players, music junior Meredith McCay and nursing junior Molly Cook used their grandiose, six-foot harps to produce a magical, idyllic sound. Between the mysticism of the harps and the passion and talent of the two close friends, the excitement surrounding the harp duo, Seven Pedals, is palpable.

Named in homage to the seven pedals on a harp, McCay and Cook decided to break away from their classical training and play harp renditions of contemporary top hits after pushes and support from professors, music colleagues and friends.

Though the pair has just started playing at local coffee shops this summer and recently released their self-titled EP, they have already garnered attention — especially since most people have never seen or heard the harp played live.

With 47 strings pulled by an arching neck that gives each cord its pitch and a soundboard that controls the warmth and power of the strings, the harp is often described as a naked piano.

"It's like a guitar-piano hybrid from another universe," Cook said.

Often complete with an ornate column and a hand-painted decal of laurels, the unique shape of the instrument elicits curiosity. Placed in the middle of the duo's living room is a pair of concert grand harps, and they are the center of attention.

Atop a black wooden shelf, next to a nearly empty container of pretzels, is the tip jar the duo uses at coffee shows. Harp Concerto Op. 182 by Carl Reinecke lies open on page 17 on a music stand. Beside it is loose-leaf sheet music filled with McCay's neat composition of 16th notes.

The two roommates met in the Butler School of Music during their freshman year. McCay, who was an engineering major at the time, was taking private harp lessons with a music professor and was asked to perform the piece Cook needed to learn.

"I never played it as well as she did," Cook said. But the encounter foreshadowed a well-matched musicianship.

Since McCay comes to the music school only late at night to practice, the two did not cross paths often until both played in UT's harp ensemble. There, their friendship grew.

Even after the two swapped places — McCay is now a music perfor-



Lawrence Peart | Daily Texan Staff

Molly Cook and Meredith McCay perform at Caffé Medici on Congress Ave. on Saturday night. Both draw inspiration from Joanna Newsom, a harpist who they say has increased public appreciation for the instrument.

mance major and Cook is a nursing major, their passion for the harp has made their partnership prosper.

Cook, who is the vocal power of the duo, is as vibrant and fiery as the curly tussles of her red hair. Not afraid to shamelessly sing along to Avril Lavigne's "Complicated," Cook is the gas pedal that pushes Seven Pedals to defy norms. McCay, on the other end, is responsible for all the fancy finger-work, and her finesse and calm allure captures the classic nature of the harp.

Since neither has played any other instrument professionally, both agree it's tough to compare the difficulty of the harp to other instruments. Cook said music theorists

WHAT: Seven Pedals

WHERE: December 8 at 8:30 p.m.

WHEN: Cafe Medici

WEB: Free

TICKETS: facebook.com/SevenPedals

have said the harp is one of the hardest to instruments to learn because there is a series of mechanics that goes into playing it.

"You throw in the fact that it

HARP continues on PAGE 9

BOOK REVIEW THE ANGEL ESMERALDA: NINE STORIES

Short story collection alive with humanity

By Clay Wickham
Daily Texan Staff

Most mornings, Sister Edgar and Sister Gracie make the drive "past the monster concrete expressway into lost streets" to an abandoned section of South Bronx known in "jocular police parlance" as the Bird. Avian wildlife find homes here among "hillocks of slashed tires laced with thriving vine" and demolished buildings strewn with needles and lined with derelicts and junkies. Edgar and Gracie go about their good work in the slum, distributing food and scouting salvageable junk to fund their humanitarian efforts.

But shortly after the death of a homeless child named Esmeralda, who the sisters have been trying to protect, a nightly phenomenon begins that breaks the monotony of their do-gooding. Each night this supernatural event draws hundreds to a billboard off the expressway, and as hope stirs among the broken down people of the Bronx, author Don DeLillo's perceptive brilliance emerges. Like other points in DeLillo's short story collection "The Angel Esmeralda: Nine Stories," his brilliance comes in the

form of a question, not an answer. How do miracles like this finally end? "Do they peter out to some forgotten core of weary faithful huddled in rain?" Most importantly, what hope is left when the magic is gone?

Throughout "The Angel Esmeralda," DeLillo's first-ever collection of short stories, the acclaimed novelist wields his favorite themes of isolation, connectivity and fear with skill and precision. People in his stories grope for one another to suppress the deep unease of human life. In DeLillo's world, this unease comes from being a speck among skyscrapers, from spinning at hundreds of miles per hour on primitive planet of "fault systems," volcanic eruptions, snowfields and "swirling storm center[s]."

In these stories, DeLillo's characters all cope differently with their fears. One compulsively cleans her cleaning supplies, another weaves her own comforting lies, while another tries to reduce his life to the minutia of everyday tasks and "forget the measure of our vision, the upwelling awe and dread." But, in-

ANGEL continues on PAGE 9

The Angel Esmeralda: Nine Stories Don DeLillo

Genre: Literary Fiction
Pages: 211

For those who like:

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Grade: A-

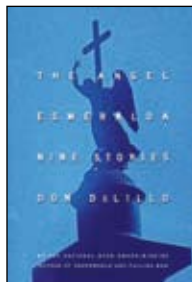


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